From: Johnson, James
Sent: Sunday, February 16, 2014 12:52:49 PM
To: Tapia, Cecilia; Jackson, Robert W.
Cc: Hayes, Scott; Buchholz, Ken; Williams, David (R7); Nold, Eric; Davis, Joe; don.kinkhorst@dnr.mo.gov
Subject: Bridgeton Landfill Fire Event

Bridgeton Landfill Fire Event

On Sunday, February 16, 2014, around 0930 hours OSC Johnson observed smoke billowing up near the South Quarry Area (SQA) of the Bridgeton Landfill site at 13570 St Charles Rock Road in Bridgeton, Missouri. Upon further investigation, it appeared that the landfill liner and piping in this area was on fire (see attached photos). The SQA is approximately 3000 – 5000 feet south of where I was working in the radiologically impacted material (RIM) area. *At no time during the fire was the RIM area impacted or threatened.*

According to Mike Lambrich (Republic – ESH), there is a compressed airline that runs under the liner in this area of the SQR. This line leaked at some point during the morning hours, accumulated under the liner, along with other landfill gases, and escaped, under pressure, through a hole in the fabric. It appears that the friction caused by the escaping compressed gases may have provided a static spark which caused the resulting fire and steam/smoke cloud (this has not been confirmed at this time).

Republic responded promptly to the scene and pinched off the flow of air to this area. They allowed the subsequent gases, no longer under pressure, to burn themselves off. The resultant fire was extinguished around 1030 hours and the area was covered with dirt. Republic is now in the clean up and recovery phase

MDNR (Don Kinkhorst, OSC), responded to the scene and was conducting air monitoring and environmental assessments. I also observed, but did not interact with, the City of Bridgeton Police & Fire Departments, the media, or the general public.

Please forward this to those I may have missed, thanks.

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2/16 @ 0935 hrs. Photo taken standing in the SQA, the view is southwest. The fire and steam/smoke cloud is shown. The flames scorched the gravel pathway and grass but did not appear to leave the site.

2/16 @ 0935 hrs. Photo taken standing in the SQA, the view is southwest. The fire and steam/smoke cloud is shown. The flames scorched the gravel pathway and grassy area, but did not appear to leave the site perimeter. Boenker Lane can be seen in the background.

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02/16 @ 0959 hrs. Photo taken standing in the SQA, near gate 2, on Boenker Lane, the view is southeast. The fire and steam/smoke cloud is shown. Most of the smoke is due to the compressed air coming thru the liner. The temperature gradient caused most of the misting in the area. Small flames can be seen in/around the piping.

02/16 @ 1002 hrs. Photo taken nearer the air lines and relief valves, the view is east. The fire and steam/smoke cloud is shown. Small flames can be seen in/around the piping.

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02/16 @ 1002 hrs. Photo taken standing in the SQA, near gate 2, on Boenker Lane, the view is east. The fire and steam/smoke cloud is shown. At the height of the flames, the photo shows where the gravel path and grassy area was scorched.

02/16 @ 1104 hrs. Photo taken standing on Boenker Lane, the view is northeast. Republic has responded to the scene and is in process of putting out the fire.

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02/16 @ 1104 hrs. Photo taken standing on Boenker Lane, the view is east. Republic has responded to the scene and is in process of putting out the fire. The liner breach can be seen.

02/16 @ 1107 hrs. Photo taken standing in the SQA, near gate 2, on Boenker Lane, the view is southwest. Republic is using dump trucks to haul dirt to the scene to put out the fire. They were in the clean up and recovery phase.